

Attorney's Docket: 2000DE135
Serial No.: 10/004,601
Art Unit: 1756

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

- 1) (Currently Amended) A method for coloring a composition comprising the steps of ~~adding to a binder resin~~ homogeneously incorporating spherically shaped wax-coated pigment granules having into a binder resin, wherein the wax coated pigment granules have a particle size of between 0.05 and 5 mm and a wax content of from 1 to 50% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules to form a mixture, grinding the mixture and classifying the mixture to give a colored composition, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic developers, powder coating materials, inkjet inks, electret materials and color filters.
- 2) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules have a wax content of from 5 to 40% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules.
- 3) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax coated pigment particles comprise an organic pigment, and wherein the organic pigment is an azo pigment or a polycyclic pigment.
- 4) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polycyclic pigment is selected from the group consisting of an isoindolinone, isoindoline, anthanthrone, thioindigo, quinophthalone, anthraquinone, dioxazine, phthalocyanine, quinacridone, perylene, perinone, thiazineindigo, diketopyrrolopyrrole and azomethine pigment.
- 5) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of natural wax, modified natural wax, semisynthetic wax, fully synthetic wax, amide wax, chlorinated or fluorinated

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polyolefin wax, thermoplastic polyester resin, epoxy resin, styrene-acrylate copolymer resin, styrene-butadiene copolymer resin and cycloolefin copolymer resin.

6) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fully synthetic wax is a polyolefin wax, a cycloolefin copolymer wax or a polyethylene glycol wax.

7) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polyolefin wax is a polyolefin wax containing polar groups which has been formed by subsequent oxidation of the polyolefin wax, by graft reaction with monomers containing carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, carboxylic anhydride or hydroxyl groups, or by copolymerization of an olefin and a monomer containing carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, carboxylic anhydride or hydroxyl groups.

8) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a dropping point of between 60 and 180°C.

9) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are spray dried.

10) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules further comprise a charge control agent selected from the group consisting of triphenylmethanes; ammonium and immonium compounds; iminium compounds; fluorinated ammonium compounds and fluorinated immonium compounds; biscationic acid amides; polymeric ammonium compounds; diallylammonium compounds; aryl sulfide derivatives; phenol derivatives; phosphonium compounds and fluorinated phosphonium compounds; salt-like structured silicates; calix(n)arenes; resorcinols; cyclically linked oligosaccharides, interpolyelectrolyte complexes; polyester salts; metal complex compounds; boron

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complexes of 1,2-dihydroxyaromatics, 1,2-dihydroxyaliphatics or 2-hydroxy-1-carboxyaromatics; benzimidazolones; azines, thiazines, and oxazines.

11) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the charge control agent is present in the coated pigment granules in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules.

12) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrophotographic toners are selected from the group consisting of liquid toners and powder toners.

13) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are used in an amount of from 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the overall weight of the composition.

14) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are in the form of a masterbatch.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a dropping point of between 80 and 140°C.

16. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are used in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, based on the overall weight of the composition.

17. (Cancelled)

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18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~adding step further comprises homogeneously incorporating step further comprises kneading the binder resin and the wax coated pigment granules into the binder resin.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~48~~1, wherein the homogeneously incorporating step further comprises the binder resin and the coated pigment granules further comprises extruding or kneading the binder resin and the wax coated pigment granules.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~adding~~ homogeneously incorporating step further comprises adding the coated pigment granules to the binder resin during the polymerization ~~process of the binder resin.~~

21. (Previously Presented) An electrophotographic toner or developer made in accordance with the method of claim 1.